



# PREVENTION PROGRESS

## Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

September 2014

### Inside this issue:

Grantee Training	1-2
Message from Executive Director	3
Fit Dad's Program Success	4
Message Boards	5
Spotlight on ADCANP Intern	5
Check Presentations Around the State	6
Programs Making a Difference	7
Public Health Survey	7
Board of Directors	8

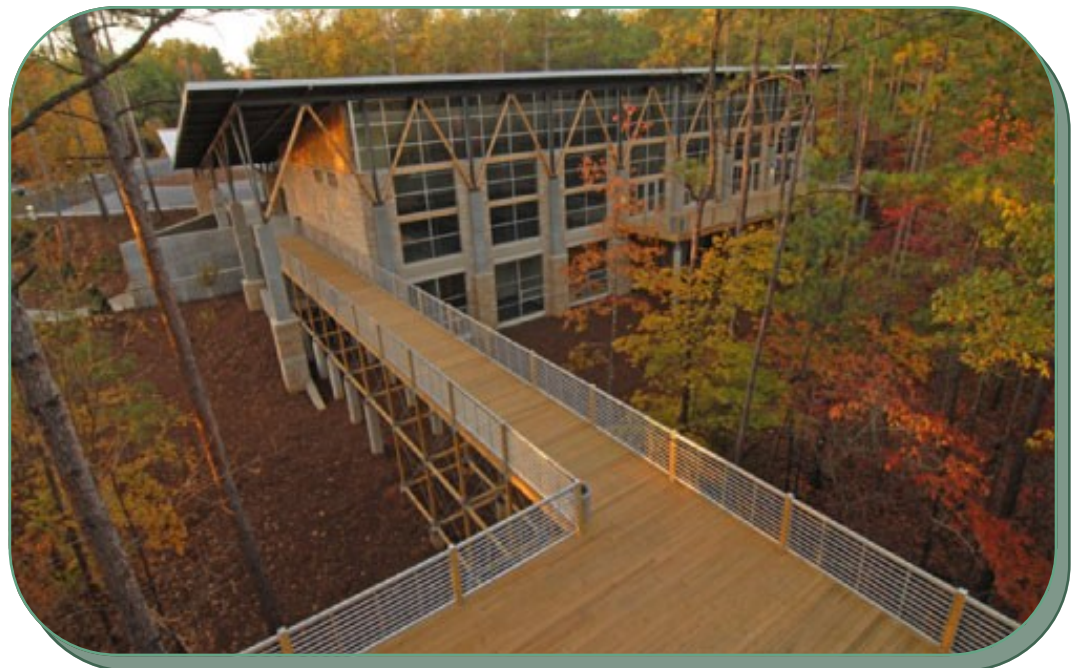
### Grantee Training at the 4H Center in Columbiana

This year's Grantee Training on August 4th through 5th, was a phenomenal success due in part to the beautiful location, 100% grantee participation and a host of informative speakers.

We had the opportunity to hear from experts within our state and with other nationally-recognized organizations that focused on advocacy, parent engagement and creating safe, stable and nurturing relationships.

Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell and Felicia Woerner with the University of Alabama's School of Social Work program evaluation staff presented on the evaluation process and stressed the importance of timely reporting. The ADCANP Program staff addressed site visit expectations and Accounting staff guided participants through accounting procedures.

We received so much positive feedback on this year's training. One of the most talked about parts of the training was the focused networking. The staff were excited to have the opportunity to meet with you one-on-one and are looking forward to a successful new program year!





## Grantee Training



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Greetings! Our new program year began August 1 and it was kicked-off with two great days of grantee training, held on August 4 -5 at the beautiful 4H Center in Columbiana. Grantee participants were updated on our agency's program requirements, fiscal issues and evaluation procedures on the first day. The second day of training focused on advocacy work from our friends with VOICES for Alabama's Children; "Essentials for Childhood" training by Sandra Alexander from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and parent engagement techniques by Alicia Luckie, technical consultant with FRIENDS network. Grantee participants also were given opportunities to network – both in small groups divided by our program types, and by Congressional districts which afforded time to plan collectively. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and we are already seeing the benefits to allotting time to plan for district check presentations and other awareness events.



We are also putting the finishing touches on our "Pathways for Responsible Fatherhood" training that will be held for those programs receiving these federal funds. The agenda includes guest speakers from programs outside our state to highlight promising practices from other regions of the country. Auburn University evaluation experts will be involved with the data collection for the upcoming program year for the "responsible fatherhood" grantees, and they will be presenting regarding evaluation procedures. Auburn University is the grantee for the Healthy Marriage initiative that is linked to the Fatherhood program, so combining our efforts will only serve to strengthen our fatherhood programs.

I wish everyone a very successful year. I look forward to visiting as many programs as possible in the coming months. We at the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (*The Children's Trust Fund*) remain committed to providing our grantees with helpful, meaningful on-going training and technical assistance. Working together we can make a positive impact in the lives of children and families in Alabama.

Fondly,



Front Row (left to right): Tracy Plummer, Jessica Jackson, Sallye Longshore, Cassandra Sharp and Dawn Miller

Back Row: Mike Roberts, Harrison Black, Aseelah Salaam, Barbara Anne Fell, Felicia Dumas and Victor Koriko



## PROGRAM SUCCESS



### Highlighting : Michael Traywick Vineyard Family Services' Fit Dad Program Participant

#### Tell us a little bit about your background and how you grew up.

My father passed away when I was very young (three to be exact). My mom remarried when I was five. I was raised by my mom and stepdad. He was pretty hard on me but I think he loved me. I called him dad because he was the only dad I knew. I was never really close to him and now I have no contact with him.

For the most part I had a pretty good childhood. My mom was the primary parental influence in my childhood. She loves and prays for me every day. Were it not for her I do not know where I would be now.

#### How did you wind up in the F.I.T. DAD Program?

I was out of work and got behind in my child support. This got me in trouble with the courts and got me thrown in jail once. I was standing in front of Dick Bell trying to explain that I was looking for work but could not find any. He said "I am going to introduce you to Ward Williams and he is going to get your mind right". I had no idea what that meant. But I was not going to jail.

#### What issues do you think led you to this place?

Three years ago I would have answered this question differently. But now I think that selfishness, frustration and bad decisions brought me to this place.

#### How was the program different from you were expecting?

I thought it was going to be a "bash me" class. But I soon realized that the program was very helpful to me. It did get my mind right. It helped me see a different angle of my problems.

#### How were you when you finished the program? Did you feel that it helped you and if so, in what specific ways?

I finally felt for the first time that there was hope. I felt like I was not alone in this. I felt like I was making progress. I met many other guys that were going through the same things I was going through. I wanted to keep coming.

#### When & Why did you decide to get involved in giving back to the program?

The night I graduated I promised Ward I was going to continue to attend. It helped me so much that want it to keep going. I want to help other guys in my same situation. I want to break this cycle of families falling apart. I do not want my children to be in this situation when they grow up.

#### How is your life now after the program and getting involved so much in it again?

I feel like I have learned so much from the program and the other guys in it. Every time I go I learn something.

#### If you could say anything to the fathers out there that might need to enter this program, what would it be?

Open up and give it a chance. You will not regret it. In the three years I have been involved I have never met a dad that did not love his children. This program helps you become the best dad you can possibly be. What is more important than our children? They need us to teach, guide and care for them. This organization is committed to rebuilding those bridges we have burnt and providing families with the tools they need to make that happen.

## Message Boards

We have heard from several of you who have stressed an interest in networking more with other grantees funded in your districts. We spoke with Dane Shaw, Executive Director of the Dallas County Fatherhood Initiative, who has been using Base Camp as their project website. It costs \$20 a month for 3GB of data or 10 projects, \$50 a month for 15GB of data or 40 projects, and the prices go up from there.

The website allows them to post comments, documents, calendars, to-do lists, e-mails, etc., all from one place. For example, Dane said his county is working together on the upcoming check presentation scheduled for Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. They are posting ideas, contacts, messages, etc. so everyone knows what's going on. Once a comment or file is uploaded, it is e-mailed to everyone on the project so they can check in on what's going on.

All you have to have is a web browser or a smartphone. Basecamp advertises that it runs in the cloud on secure servers with a 99.996% uptime record over the last 12 months. The website is [www.basecamp.com](http://www.basecamp.com). There's a 60-day free trial.

There also appears to be some "free" message boards such as Boardhost and eboards4all that you might want to check out!

We understand that what works for one group may not work for another but we wanted to pass this on to any of you who are interested and think this might be a useful tool.



Let's  
Network!



## Spotlight on Kadedra

Kadedra Smith started her internship with the Department in May of this year. She is currently working on her Master's in Public Administration at Auburn University. Her hometown is Montgomery but she moved to Auburn in 2009 to start her undergrad at the University where she received her BA in Political Science with a minor in Community and Civic Engagements in 2013.

While working with the Department, she has been able to observe the ending of one program year and the start of a new one. She took part in the grant review process including local and board review, and had the opportunity to experience grantee training. She has participated in the United Way State Combined Campaign and has gone on a few site visits around the state.

When asked about her experience with the Department, she replied:

*"I am so thankful for the opportunity to work with this wonderful organization. Each person plays an important role in the organization and each one has been encouraging and helpful to me throughout my time with the agency. I am set to finish up my studies at Auburn University in May of 2015. As of now I am still looking into where I will make my next step after the program. My experience with the Department is definitely helping me narrow down projected goals and setting plans towards my career. I am really enjoying my time here and am so grateful to work with an amazing group of people all in the effort to improve Alabama's child abuse and neglect conditions.*

**War Eagle!"**





## CHECK PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULED AROUND THE STATE

**Check Presentations** should be strategic, well-planned events. This process is going to take you working closely within your district and with our staff to make sure a successful event is planned. Once you have a potential date, please contact ADCANP to make sure the ADCANP Executive Director and/or Field Director are able to attend.

- ✓ Contact as many grantees in the district as possible before scheduling.
- ✓ Contact ADCANP Board Members, Legislators, City Officials, News Media and Program Participants.
- ✓ Make sure to follow up and confirm participation at the event. Let ADCANP know what Legislators will be in attendance. Legislators must be present to hear our message. If you need a list of legislators and contact information, we can provide that for you.

**August 27, 2014 (Wednesday) District 5 (Shoals area) Check Presentation at 11:30 a.m. Location: Attention Homes of Northwest Alabama, 1801 Sheffield Drive, Sheffield, AL.**

**September 8, 2014 (Monday) Baldwin County Grantees' Check Presentation at 10:00 a.m. Location: Family Service Center, 2402 Hwy. 31 South, Suite C, Bay Minette, AL. Contact Person is Gwyn Smith.**

**September 9, 2014 (Tuesday) District 1 Check Presentation at 10:00 a.m. Location: Government Plaza, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL. Room is located on the first floor in the Multi-purpose room. Contact person is Lydia Pettijohn.**

**September 18, 2014 (Thursday) District 6 Check Presentation at 6:30 p.m. for Alabama CASA Network. Location: Pelham Civic Complex. Contact person is Beth Chapman.**

**October 1, 2014 (Wednesday) District 5 Check Presentation at 3:00p.m. Location: Alabama Robotics Technology Park Phase I (Across the street from Calhoun Community College) 6505 U.S. Hwy 31, Tanner, AL.**

**October 14, 2014 (Tuesday) District 2 Check Presentation for Coffee, Dale and Houston Counties. Contact people are Mary Joyner & Judy Crowley.**

**October 24, 2014 (Friday) District 7 Check Presentation at 10:00a.m. Location: Arsenal Place Accelerator-900 Alabama Avenue Selma 36701. Contact Person is Dane Shaw.**



## Making a Difference . . .One Family at a Time!

### GIFT OF LIFE—Nurse Family Partnership Program

#### The Perfect Storm - Almost

AE is a 21 year-old Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) client who has a now 3-month-old baby boy. EJ is thriving now but without the observation and actions taken by the visiting nurse, the story of this young life might not be unfolding in such a positive way.

EJ's mom loves him dearly but she has challenges. She has the challenge of navigating life and motherhood with less-than-average intellectual capacity. She has the challenge of *making- do* on an income well below the federal poverty level. Had it not been for the NFP Nurse Home Visitor, Lashanda, these two challenges could have created the *perfect storm* that ended EJ's life.

EJ came home from the hospital as a healthy full-term infant; full of life and with a ravenous appetite. Nurse LaShanda went to see EJ and his mother when EJ was just days old, and because he was reportedly eating so well, was surprised to see that he had lost 11 ounces. She revisited a few days later and he had lost even more; almost a pound under his discharge weight. According to his mother, he was eating well, or at least emptying his bottles. What Nurse LaShanda found was that EJ's mom was *stretching formula* by adding water. EJ was slowly starving.

LaShanda got to work. EJ's mom could not read, so color-coded measuring cups were obtained and bottles were marked. Extra formula per week was obtained so that expensive trips to WIC were avoided. It was simply explained that EJ needed the fat in the formula so that his body and brain could grow. Water has no fat. The nurse observed AE as she made bottles for EJ and her success was celebrated!

EJ is now gaining! He is well over his discharge weight and is getting juicier by the week! EJ's mom still has her challenges and LaShanda will help her face them for the next two years. As for EJ, he was and remains, blissfully unaware of the threat of that *perfect storm*.



### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT MOVES UP TO 6TH MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERN IN ALABAMA

The Alabama Department of Public Health conducted a community health assessment of the top health care concerns in Alabama. After receiving over 6,000 individual surveys and 500 organizational surveys, they identified the top 13 health care concerns in Alabama. According to these surveys, child abuse and neglect ranked as the eighth highest community health concern in Alabama. The Department of Public Health brought together key Alabama stakeholders to set statewide health care priorities from the list of identified health care concerns. The key statewide stakeholders voted to move child abuse and neglect as the sixth most important Community health concern in Alabama. This group of stakeholders is committed to improving health concerns in Alabama.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention secures resources to fund evidence-based community programs committed to the prevention of child maltreatment; we advocate for children and the strengthening of families.



**Front Row (left to right):** Karen Porter, Anita L. Archie, Nancy Sewell, Margaret Mitchell Brown and Maranda Brown  
**Back Row:** Myron C. Gargis, Jamey Durham, Mary Ashcraft, Beth Chapman, James Slaughter and Clinton L. Johnson

## Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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